

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENTI 00629 110427Z

11

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /041 W

----- 082742

R 110403Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6216

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 0629

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, LA, FR

SUBJECT: LAO RELEASE FRENCH TEACHER

REF: VIENTIANE 0590

1. MR. SALUZZO, FRENCH TEACHER ARRESTED IN VIENTIANE MARCH 1 (SEE REFTEL) WAS RELEASED BY LAO POLICE MARCH 9, AFTER FRENCH AMBASSADOR HAD SEEN FOREIGN MINISTER. ALTHOUGH LAO POLICE HAD CLAIMED THEY ARRESTED SALUZZO FOR "SPYING," THERE WERE NO FORMAL CHARGES AGAINST HIM WHEN HE WAS RELEASED. SALUZZO WAS NOT ORDERED TO LEAVE LAOS. HOWEVER, FRENCH EMBASSY HAS NOW ASKED MFA IF SALUZZO MAY RESUME TEACHING AT DONG DOK SCHOOL IN VIENTIANE. IF ANSWER IS NEGATIVE HE WILL, OF COURSE, BE SENT HOME BY FRENCH GOVERNMENT, WHICH PAYS HIS SALARY HERE.

2. FRENCH CONSUL BONDY WAS PLEASED AT RELATIVE SPEED OF RESOLUTION OF THIS CASE (FOR LAOS). HOWEVER, HE NOTED THAT LAO GIRL STUDENT ARRESTED WITH SALUZZO WAS STILL IMPRISONED. BONDY STATED GIRL'S FAMILY WERE MAKING REPRESENTATIONS TO POLICE AND HE EXPECTED SHE WOULD BE RELEASED SOON.

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3. COMMENT: AS SALUZZO WAS IN LAOS IN QUASI-OFFICIAL

STATUS, FRENCH HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO MAKE HIGH-LEVEL REPRESENTATIONS ABOUT THIS CASE. OTHER FRENCHMAN MENTIONED REFTEL, A MR. CASENAZ, WHO IS REPORTEDLY FRENCH BY NATIONALITY BUT HALF CAMBODIAN, IS STILL IN PRISON AT SAMKHE IN VIENTIANE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TEACHERS, ARRESTS, PRISONERS RELEASE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976VIENTI00629
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760091-1098
From: VIENTIANE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760369/aaaacivt.tel
Line Count: 67
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 VIENTIANE 590
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 APR 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <17 AUG 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LAO RELEASE FRENCH TEACHER
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, LA, FR, (SALUZZO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006